



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion™

**STATEMENT BY DR. CAROL A. SUMNER**  
**VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

In my first week as Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Texas Tech University, I have felt most welcome on this campus. I made the decision to join this community because of the people of the greater Texas Tech University community. It was clear to me that the university was absolutely committed to active practices of diversity, equity and inclusion. It is with that in mind that I address the recent statements made by a student leader and members of our Tech Interfraternity Council.

While individuals are entitled to practice their right to free speech and social media platforms to share those ideas, the expressions made by these individual students do not reflect our Texas Tech University community. The statements and ideas are abhorrent and antithetical to who we are and what we represent. We are not willing to compromise on our promise to our community that this will be a place where everyone belongs, AND that diversity, equity, and inclusions are what we continue to build upon. Let me make it perfectly clear, this land and our earliest community members and those who were a part of building this great state, this great nation, and are a part of the great fabric of our country are, without any hesitation, valued, welcomed, celebrated and critically important to who we are as an institution, a community, the South Plains, and beyond.

We – the university president, the office of the Dean of Students and Student Affairs and I - were made aware of these statements late Thursday evening and we immediately began to address this situation last night and in the president's office this morning. The members of the Interfraternity Council had already begun to address this matter internally. We collectively recognize that this must be addressed with all expedience.

We have put a plan in place to move forward the investigation and appropriate actions. This incident only highlights the need for more education and reiteration that we will continue to celebrate and actively engage in the practices of diversity, equity, and inclusion with our students, faculty, staff, and members of the Lubbock community. It is only through education and exposure to others that we can truly learn to appreciate, support, and celebrate each other.

As I take on my duties as Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, I will be most mindful that, despite the efforts of many to make this campus welcoming to all individuals regardless of

race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or country of origin, there is still work to be done. I assure you that we are committed to that work and take our charge with the utmost seriousness.

Should you have questions or wish to contact me, our Division can be contacted by calling (806) 742-7025 or by emailing [diversity@ttu.edu](mailto:diversity@ttu.edu). The Division webpage can be found at [www.depts.ttu.edu/diversity/](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/diversity/).

My colleagues in the Office of the Dean of Student are also available should there be a desire to contact them. The Dean's office can be contacted by calling (806) 742-2984 or by email at [deanofstudents@ttu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@ttu.edu).

Yours in service,



Dr. Carol A. Sumner

Vice President

[Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#)  
[Texas Tech University](#)

P.O. Box 45024

Phone | (806) 742-7025

Fax | (806) 742-2364

Cc: Dr. Lawrence Schovanec, President  
Dr. Michael Galyean, Provost  
Dr. Cathy Duran, Associate Vice Provost  
Dr. Matthew Gregory, Dean of Students  
Texas Tech University Faculty, Staff and Students